

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #21

December 12, 1980

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of Postal DIPLOMACY and other postal multi-player wargames. The cost of a 12 issue subscription is \$5.50. Gamefees vary so check out the GAME OPENINGS section if you are interested in joining a new game. MM is normally published once a month (approx.) utilizing three week deadlines for games. Sometimes, however, mid-month editions (such as this one) will supplement those going out monthly. That little old Main Minister who prints this journal is me, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304. The telephone number is (805) 834-8409.

Just last month in Issue #26, I mentioned that there might well be an occasional mid-month edition of MM on an experimental basis. Well here is the first one. There are no games in this issue, just some STUFF, the usual reader's RHETORICAL REPLIES, but (most importantly) my new subzine by Jane Proskin which she is going to entitle JOY OF JANE.

Speaking of Jane, boy oh boy is Bob Arnett's face ever going to be red. As many of you know Bob has been voicing himself all over the place (in his own zine Volkerwandering as well as in others) that there is no Jane Proskin and that she is purely a fictitious person dreamed up by Bruce Linsey. No way Jose! Jane is real. She is right here in Bakersfield at this very minute and is staying with lucky Dan Kuszynski. And she has promised a four page subzine for MM that will be in this issue. If her four page subzine goes over well it will appear in MM fairly frequently, but not every month. Jane is being a little finicky about this thing. She doesn't want to use my mimeo machine for her subzine and seems to be somewhat scared that I am going to edit what she writes, thus she is typing and having the entire thing printed on her own. I won't know until the last moment just what she will put it in, but from what I have heard from her and Dan I think it will be pretty entertaining.

Another new zine has popped up. This one is by none other than Dave Perlmutter who has recently dropped a lot of his games in order to have more time to spend on his new zine. He calls this one PS/RL, which I think is a pretty original title. Why don't you send Dave an SASE for a sample copy? Dave Perlmutter, Latches Lane, Apt. #608, Merion, PA 19066. The first issue has a lot of fun stuff including an article about Adolf Hitler. Dave knows a lot about Hitler because his father used to be a barber in Germany and once gave Hitler a haircut. Unfortunately Dave's article tends to ridicule and make fun of Hitler however. This will be unfortunate for Dave I am afraid because Konrad Baummeister, who has a lot of influence in the hobby, is an ardent supporter for a better image for Hitler. Konrad and Dave have already crossed pens a couple of times in a growing hobby feud. I am afraid that this article in Dave's new zine will add fuel to the fire.

* No way Jose is the correct way of spelling this. Gary Coughlan (know who he is?) always tries to spell it No way Hosea, but this is ridiculous. If you ever see it anywhere spelled "Hoseah" or "Hosaa" you can bet your babies milk money that Gary was responsible, even though it might seemingly be attributed to Dick Martin.

MORE STUFF

There certainly has been a plethora of "fake zines" lately. The latest of these is a Retaliation mailed out of North Carolina. I knew it was a fake just as soon as I saw it had only taken four days, instead of the customary 18, to reach here from the east coast. This "Bonzo" edition of Retaliation seems to have been perpetrated by the same person that did the "Mellow Yellow" Voice of Doom fake. Somebody who calls himself Donovan. No, I don't think that Donovan is Black Jack Masters as many do. Apparently he takes his name from the singer "Donovan" who released the hit song "Mellow Yellow". My bet is that he is much closer geographically to another singer (now deceased) who is famous for "You ain't nothin' but a hounddog".

On the serious side, however, these hobby fakes are becoming a very serious matter and something must be done about them--and soon. For my part, I just feel very very lucky that nobody has tried to fake a MM.

Another issue will be out in two weeks, so I'll cut the STUFF short at this point. Jennifer King has named her column "Cotton Jenny" and she has a short piece to go in this time along with the "Joy of Jane" column by Jane Proskin. Wow! two columns by women in the same zine. This must really be a hobby first.

COTTON JENNY'S SPORTS COLUMN

Hi everybody! It's me Jenny back with my sports column. Only I've got a name for it now, I'm going to call it "Cotton Jenny's Column". What do you think of that? Pretty neat name, huh? I want to thank all of you who have written about my column, I really appreciate your nice comments. Even yours Gary, but I am still not going to starch your shorts!

I got to go up to Bakersfield to see Ron Brown's high school team play in the C.I.F. semi-finals last week. Ron let me sit on the bench with him and the team, that was real exciting. Ron's team had a real comfy 14 to 3 lead going into the fourth quarter, but then their opponent (Visalia high school) started doing everything right on the ground on offence. They were ripping big holes in the Bakersfield line and scored a touchdown on 15 consecutive running plays in a 80 yard drive. The score was 14 to 10 and Visalia got the ball back on its own 30 yard line with less than five minutes to go. Bakersfield couldn't stop them and it looked like it was all over. Ron called a player named Evans off of the bench and told him: "I know I haven't played you much this year Evans, but I am desperate now. Go in for Gilroy and plug up the hole in our defensive line." Well Evans went in and the Bakersfield defence started to hold. They eventually stopped Visalia on the Bakersfield 22 yard line. Bakersfield won. Ron called Evans over to the bench after the game. "I'm giving you the game ball, Evans", he said "the way you went in and stopped up the hole in that line is the greatest thing anybody on this team has done all year." "Well gee, coach", said Evans "I shouldn't get all of the credit. When you sent me in Gilroy didn't come out."

SUPER BOWL WINNER VIKINGS!!

Surprised? Don't be, the Vikings (the quiet team that nobody thinks about) have slipped into the NFC central title. In their first playoff game they will draw the over-rated Atlanta team and beat them in Atlanta. The Los Angeles Rams will go in as a wild-card team and will beat Philadelphia in the first wild-card game and then Dallas in the next game to go to the NFC finals against Minnesota--in Minnesota. It will be 47° below zero in Minneapolis for the NFC championship game. It will be close, but the weather will beat the Rams. Frank Corral will try a field goal with only seconds remaining, but the ball will have frozen solid and Frank will break his foot while the ball doesn't move. The Vikes will meet either San Diego or Cleveland in the Super Bowl. The AFC team will be overconfident and the Vikes will have a good day and win! Remember you heard it here first.

Jon

joy of JANE

THE NEWEST SUBZINE OF MURD'RING MINISTERS by JANE PROSKIN



jane and "arnetto"

Well that is my picture on the reverse side, along with my pet Italian bear that I have named "Arnetto". I am nominating Arnetto as the hobby mascot, I hope you will all agree with my choice and vote for him. Don't you think that Arnetto would make a much better hobby mascot than some stupid dog? All Bruce Linsey's dog Trouble does is lick dirty feet, and Jack Masters' dog Bruce is simply mean. Donovan, who they say is from Tennessee, wants to nominate the "great white shark" but this is simply ridiculous. Pudge Olsen has some sort of a cat; so much for Pudge. I am sure that you will all agree with me and vote for Arnetto to be the hobby mascot.

Yee Diplomacy player there really is a JANE PROSKIN. I am alive and well and right now am living with Dan Kuszynski in Bakersfield, California. I met Ron Brown about a week ago when I went over to his house with Dan. When I found out that Jenny King was producing a subzine for Ron's Murd'ring Ministers, I got the idea to write one too. It was not too hard to convince Ron to give me a try. After looking over a number of back issues of Murd'ring Ministers I have decided what I will do with my column. Murd'ring Ministers seems to be a very nice zine but it lacks spice. My subzine, which I am naming JOY OF JANE will supply some of the spice that MM has been lacking. It will not appear every month, but you should find it five or six times a year in MM. If any other zines would like to carry it, write me in care of Ron.

A lot of you probably want to know a little bit about me. Fair enough. I won't go into great detail, but here is a brief sketch. I am 32 years old and was born in Ladysmith, Wisconsin in 1948. Until recently I lived with my late husband, William Proskin, who was a chiropractor in Schenectady, New York. My husband died ten months ago and left me no property but instead a trust fund that gives me \$4000.00 a month to live on. This is substantial enough that I don't have to work. I got interested in Diplomacy (actually rather men who play the game of Diplomacy) about seven months ago. Since I have nothing more pressing at the moment and for the next couple of years, this is what I plan on doing. I will travel about the country visiting the more prominent postal Diplomacy players; staying with those that will have me. Through my visits I will learn all about them and will report what I learn in Joy of Jane.

I will stay on with Dan for a few more weeks, but I don't know that I can take much longer than that of his horribly messy apartment. At any rate I will get to know him very well before I leave him. I will also try to spend as much time as possible with Al Rodriguez and Ron Brown before I leave. Rodriguez will be easy, but not Brown as his wife Char is extremely jealous and is going to keep very close tabs on Ron while I am in town. But where there is a will there is a way and Janie has the will. In the L.A. area I want to get to know Jerry Jones, Black Jack Masters and Mike (Conrad Shortley) Hartman before I leave the area as I think that the readers of this subzine will want to know a lot more about these three and what they are like. Since all three of them are married this may not be an easy task. Black Jack has promised, however, to get away long enough to spend a weekend (or was it two Black Jack) in Las Vegas with me. I will be able to report to all of you if he really is as good at playing "black jack" as he likes everyone to think he is.

I will be up in Chowchilla for Dave Grabar's GrabarCon on December 27th and will be wearing my new Diplomacy outfit and expecting to win every game I'm in. If Dave is cute, I might be able to stick around with him for a while. For the most part I will be on the west coast until after Origins in San Francisco in July, visiting whatever Diplomacy players I can and gathering material for my column. I might even spend a bit of time with Mark Kraft in Morgan Hill; it has been a long time since I have seduced a 13 year old. But after Origins I will head back east. I am especially interested in spending a long time with Gary Coughlan in Memphis. I have talked to Gary on the phone a couple of times and he has a real sexy southern accent that really turns me on. On the way to Tennessee I want to stop for a while with John Michalski and Coughlan wants me to check out Pudge Olsen for him, but I understand that Pudge has cats and I don't think I could put up with them.

Janie's Ten Diplomatics

1

Beware thy fellow player that answers not thy letter, for he shall sursly fall upon thee as many cubits of bricks.

2

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, if thou needs must stab, thrust hard and and for the death, for if thou art hesitant and fearful thy enemy will surely turn upon thee in a great rage.

3

Takest thou care thy games are ended for verily though thou hast given thy money, the finding of a substitute for a lost position is a great trial and tribulation, for which thy gamesmaster will remember thy name until the end of time.

4

Spendest not all of thy time on the pursuit of Diplomacy, for if though dost thy friends will surely buy beers for thy wife and girlfriend and console her in ways not pleasing to thee.

5

Feud not in the world of Diplomacy, for it is only a game and even if someone be a son of a bitch and a bastard he may someday show up as a standby in thy game. Of course, if thou gainsst joy from a feud, forget thou the above.

6

Cause not anger among the players in thy game, for they will conspire together against thee and thy seasons will not long endure.

7

Tarry not amongst those who make foolish movss, for they are surely not long for the game; lest thou be adjudged as a fool and eliminated.

8

Takest thou care thou distortest not the truth to thy gamesmaster, for this incurreth his wrath and bringeth his fury about thy head and shoulders. And, if-fith thy gamesmaster should be Brux, then woe be unto you.

9

When thy friends and enemies have been established, be thou willing to change friend for enemy and enemy for friend for while this mayest be confusing it will ensure thy finish in the game.

10

Commit to thy memory all of the words of the prophet Allan as written in the RULES FOR DIPLOMACY (copyright Avalon Hill) which giveth out with the straight dope and consoleth thee when thou hast been screwed by thy gamesmaster.

I just had a little discussion with Ron Brown. Ron wanted me to type this up on his mimeograph masters, but there is no way that Janie is going to mess around with those things. Also Ron wants to edit my column before it goes out. No no way once again "onnie. I'll do this thing my way and without your editing Ronnie or not at all. O.K.? Ron claims he paid \$1000.00 for his Gestetner Mimso machine. If he did they sure saw him coming. It's a pisce of junk if you ask me. For \$1000.00 I'd think you could get an electric model and not have to mess around with the gasoline powered one like Ron got. I guess Ron knows what he is doing, but I'll just get these four pages (Ron says I can only have four pages) printed on my own and at my expense and give them to Ronnie when they are done.

Dan just asked me to put in a reminder to Bob Arnett to be surs to get his F01 orders in for Vacation Diplomacy (whatever that is) as Dan doesn't want any NMR's and doesn't want to hays to phons Bob Again. O.K. Bob you got ths word; also you chsapskate send Danny a donation for Vacation Diplomacy.

JANE'S DIPLOMACY OUTFIT FOR WOMEN

Here it is girls, the perfect outfit for face-to-face Diplomacy. This is my own design and comes in seven basic colors, one for each of the great powers. Since you never know in advance what country you might draw, it is advisable to get all seven colors and to make a change as necessary.

This is the outfit that I will be wearing at Dave Grabar's Grabar-Con later this month. I hope to prove its effectiveness by winning every game I get into at Dave's.

With this outfit, girls, you can offset the superior gaming instinct and intelligence of men. They will concentrate more on you than on what they are doing in the game and you'll have them in the palm of your hand.

When the Proskin Diplomacy outfits become widespread in use; I expect to see women winning all of the major tournaments and this includes Origins, Pacificon, Dip-Con, Atlanticon and even next year's BirthdayCon.

The fair sex shall prevail, and this even includes Jenny King who is not the fairest of the fair sex.



Recently Bob Arnett has been telling people that Jane Proskin is not real--that Jane is a person that Bruce Linsey made up. To clarify the situation, I want to tell everybody what really happened and how this false rumor got started. After I got started in the Diplomacy hobby, Bruce Linsey was one of the first persons that I contacted. I started receiving Voice of Doom, Bruce's zine, and tried to get in a game in it. Bruce told me he had no game openings but said that he would put me on his standby list. He also said that he would recommend me to Bob Arnett and that I should write to Bob and get on his standby list for Volkerwanderung. I did this.

A little bit later, Bruce came down to Schenectady and visited me and took me out to dinner, no on second thought we went Dutch, but anyway. When Bruce visited Bob in Virginia he said: "Bob, do you remember Jane Proskin? I made her in Schenectady." Bob who is somewhat hard of hearing, but too proud to wear a hearing aid thought Bruce said "I made her up". Ever since Bob has thought that I was a fictitious person made up by Bruce.

Actually Bruce didn't "make" me either, but the scrawny little kid did try hard enough --he just didn't have what it took. And he is not as ugly as Bob's says he is either.

Well this is the end of my fourth page and all of my column for this time. I hope you have enjoyed it. Until next time.....JANIE

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Richard Sharp))

Dear Ron:

I saw your issue #25 with the strategy article on "The Trieste Gambit" for Austria. A very similar strategy was in Vogue in England several years ago and over here we have traditionally called it the "Gascony Opening". Named in honor of Howard Gascony of Brighton who first used it in a postal game in 1973DY.

The approach was quite popular here in Great Britain for quite a few years, and is largely responsible for the very poor showing of Austria in British postal games between 1975 and 1978. Most British players now realize how dreadful the pathetic, bumbling opening is and avoid it like the plague. Giving up one home center in 1901 with only a fifty-fifty chance of gaining two neutrals is not an especially viable option and this is primarily why Nicky Palmer redubbed the thing "Gascony's Suicide" in 1978. Of course the thing worked very well for you in 1977HG; but in 77HG you had everything going for you--especially the incompetent Dave Grabar playing Italy. By the way, has Grabar ever won a game anywhere, anyway, anyhow?

Dick

((Thanks for your letter Dick. I am very pleased that Murd'ring Ministers is being read in England. As to "The Trieste Gambit" I was only relating my experience in using it and yes Dave Grabar playing Italy had a lot to do with it's success. I was not aware of the extensive use of the opening in England or that it was known as the "Gascony Opening". I do think that "Gascony Opening" is a rather confusing name for it and I like "The Trieste Gambit" better. Jack Masters has been urging me to rename it "Hey Triesto." I still like the opening and would use it again, even if Jay Shufeldt was playing Italy. - RB))

((from Craig Morton))

Dear Ron:

I don't get MM, but I saw Plunkett's copy when we were in Oakland. I really must take acception to Ms King's comments on Denver and myself. I can't help it if Ms King doesn't like Denver or if I remind her of a statue, but she has overstepped her journalistic rights when she implies to your readers that I am not decent. For the record I am a born-again-Christian, active in many community projects and am a good family man. You will not find a more decent quarterback in the NFL.

Craig

((I am very happy to see that we are picking up a broader readership after incorporating Jennifer's column. After getting your letter I phoned Jenny. Jenny said that she realizes you are indeed a very decent man Craig and she can't think of a single NFL quarterback she would rather buy a used car from. What she meant by her statement was if she had her team going into the Super Bowl, she would rather have Ken Stabler in there pitching for her. I did point out to Jenny that in the NFL statistics as of December 1st that you were ranked #5 in the AFC with a rating of 76.2 and that Stabler was #11 with a rating of 69.7.))

((from Kevin Buckalew))

Dear Ron:

If Dan Kuszynski is going to publish a subzine for you, you ought to demand a little bit of accuracy in his statements. He stated that Black Jack Masters and Bill Schiwautz were the only two people from out of town. How could he forget so soon that I was there? How could he forget that it was I that gave him the years subscription to Utopia Limited for a birthday present? How could he forget that it was I that broke a chair over his head (in a game of Swashbuckler of course). Tell Dan for me that the next time he needs a bail bond, he is gonna be in a heepa trouble.

Kevin

((Thanks for your letter Kevin. Yes we all know that you were indeed at Birthday-Con. We all know how irresponsible Kuszynski is, even though I publish his subzine "Big Timer Magazine" I do not accept any responsibility for Dan's actions or statements. --R.B.))

((from Konrad Baumeister))

Dear Mr. Brown:

Where do you get off telling people my ideas are distorted? Even if they were distorted doesn't mean that I am a nazi, does it? Well does it? I'm getting really fed up with this nazi bit. I have had to put up with the old S.O.B. (Gurt Gibson for years, then Perlmutter starts in, and now you. Perlmutter has even been going around telling people that I have never been circumcised. Isn't this ridiculous? Even if it were true, how would Perlmutter know? Think about that, just how would Perlmutter know? For these people to blame me for what a few Germans did to a few Jews in World War II is absurd. The truth is that only 29 Jews were actually killed by the Germans at Auschwitz. All of the others died as the result of an accident when a gas line accidentally ruptured in the showers. Yet Perlmutter and the others claim that we Germans killed millions of Jews in the concentration camps and they now think that it is alright for Jews to kill Germans. Be very careful of Perlmutter, he tries to disguise a lot of his propaganda as sick humor, but he is dead serious about it.

I see you spent \$1000.00 for your Cestetner. What an idiot you are. Your zine always has been rather cruddy, but the print has nothing to do with it. You are just going to make it easier for readers to see how cruddy it actually is. I bought my ditto machine eight years ago for \$3.98 and it is still just as good today as it was the day I got it. Also you don't seem to understand the economics of publishing a zine. First you establish a nominal size, say ten pages per issue. Then every couple of months you put out a bigger issue, say sixteen pages; but you charge your subbers for a double issue. After you get away with this a few times, you can put out 20 pages only call them triple issues. Then with all of these subzines you have; put them out separately under a different name and charge your subbers for a different zine. But I keep forgetting that it is 1980 and I cannot expect today's publishers to do things the right way, like back in 1973.

Konrad

((I really don't know how to answer you, Konrad. I am not anti-German and I have never accused you of being a nazi. In fact I am German myself (my actual family name is Braunschweiger, but a number of years ago I shortened it to Brown because everybody was constantly referring to me as a sausage). As to Perlmutter, yes I am aware that he is a trouble maker and will keep my eyes on him. In regard to publishing MM, I appreciate your advice, but guess I will just have to keep on doing it the way I have. --RB))

((from Black Jack Masters))

Dear Ron:

Remember that time in Bakersfield when we were in a face-to-face game? Remember how you wiped out my last Italian army in Kiel? Remember that next face-to-face encounter in Valencia? Remember the rotten thing your England did to my Germany in Denmark? Remember how I swore I would get revenge? I remember. Did you really think that my wiping you out early in our next three face-to-face games would satisfy my lust for revenge? Fat chance Ronnie, this is revenge.

Black Jack

((Revenge is one thing Black Jack, but this thing you are doing to me is both heinous and fiendish, as well as insidious. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. My reputation as a publisher will suffer forever. --RB))

((from Gary Coughlan))

Dear Ron:

I enjoyed Jennifer King's sports column. I have a name for it for her, how about KING'S KONCER? Get it? Pretty good, huh? Jennifer's picks aren't all doing that well. Look at Houston. And, what does she have against Denver anyway? Oh well, for a gal who doesn't starch shorts she writes pretty good.

What do you think about all of these fake zines that have been coming out? I think they are terrible. The person(s) behind them are terribly irresponsible and should be thrown out of the hobby. They are a great deal worse than Buddy Tretick ever thought of being. The latest one seems to be a Retaliation that was mailed from North Carolina. I knew right away that it was a fake when I saw the first class postage on it. This one is not too bad, whoever did it went to a lot of trouble, but he does have a very sick mind and needs help. It would appear that the person who did the fake Retaliation also did the fake Voice of Doom a couple of months ago. Calls himself Donovan. Isn't that an inane name? Black Jack Masters claimed credit for the fake VoD, but I personally never thought that he did it. To fake a Volkerwanderung is one thing but it takes somebody with a great deal more talent than Masters to fake a good VoD or Retaliation. Masters may not have done these fakes, but he is just about as bad as the s.o.b. that did. Masters even pirates James Thurber bits and puts them in Black Frog as original materials.

In regard to the Caruso and Arnett vs. Linsey dispute, I have decided to throw my support to Caruso and Arnett after seeing what Linsey did to poor Mike Dinicola in his "Eclipse" game (79IF) in VoD #28. Mike, who is playing a standby position as Russia as a favor to Brux, controlled two supply centers in the winter of 1906--Norway and Sweden. He had a fleet in Sweden and another fleet in Norway, plus a useless army in Livonia. Mike sent in spring 1907 orders for the two fleets and none for the army. It is obvious that he wanted to continue with the two fleets (the only viable alternative that he had) and remove the army in Livonia. Brux didn't accept this, what he wrote was: "Russia should note that I cannot accept an 'implied removal', if it was A Livn that you wanted removed, Mike, you've gotta let me know specifically!" So what did Brux do? He acted as GM and removed the Russian fleet in Norway. This is terrible! Dinicola had a chance of holding onto a 2-center power before this--but he is certainly dead now. Brux really is rotten.

By the way, as you probably already know, I am the MP Barno who has been sending out letters asking everybody involved in the Caruso/Linsey clash to cool it. Well no more. Let them both kill each other, that would be good for the hobby. I'm staying out.

Has ole Rudge written yet to try to repudiate my letter in your last issue? Don't worry he will. He is kinda funny sometimes in the way he tries to alibi out of things. It is kinda of nice sometimes to have an opponent that is such an easy (easy, how could you possibly miss him?) target for a few barbs.

How about that Jane Proskin babe? Haven't I been telling everybody that she was for real? Well Jane has phoned me a couple of times and is real. Says she is on her way to California and hopes to meet some of you Diplomacy players out there. Hope she doesn't get mixed up with Kuszynski, however, he would be bad news for her.

Is Arnett really Italian? Donovan says that his name is really Arnetto. Very interesting if true. Never cared much for Italians myself. Hardly ever see any of them at the Klan meetings. .

Gary

((Thank you ~~for~~ er, Gary for your long and enlightening letter. Since I had to retype it onto my mimeo master I couldn't reproduce all those neat little symbols (the smiley faces, horseshoes and other things) that you have on your letter. That sure must be some fantastic typewriter that you have. As for Jane Proskin, she is for real. I have seen her and she is going to do a subzine for LM. Jennifer is going to call her column Cotton Jenny, but I am sure that she appreciates your suggestion. In regard to all those fakes--yes they are very bad. I am very very thankful for my part that nobody has ever faked a Murdering Ministers issue yet. I do hope that they are caught before they ever do something like that. I haven't heard from Rudge yet, though I expect I will before long. --HB))

WRAP-UP

Well, this one is finished up (though I am still waiting for Jane to deliver her four page insert. I hope you all like the first mid-month edition of MM. Without the hassle of game deadlines, last minute order changes, etc., it has been a bit of fun to put out. If this issue is well received, I will do it again at least three or four times a year.

And remember . . .

"And my soul is filled with blues

Musing sadly o'er the news

Kuszyński has lost all of the booze."

MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM III, li. 123

BYE!

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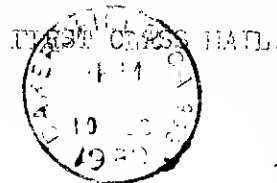
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Box 1000
1526 NE Second St.
Bakersfield, CA 93304



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rchitecture USA 15c

Jerry H. Jones
1854 Wagner St.
Pasadena, CA 91107